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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,150	11/26/2001	S. Brandon Keller	10014117-1	8618
22879	7590	01/06/2006		
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400			EXAMINER GODDARD, BRIAN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2161	

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/994,150	Applicant(s) KELLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Brian Goddard	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/7/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 28 June 2004.
2. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 11 are independent claims. In the Amendment filed 28 June 2004 the specification was amended. This action is non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 95/32476 by Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (hereafter 'CDS').

Referring to claim 1, CDS discloses a method for generating a configuration database file as claimed. See Figures 1-5 and the corresponding portions of the specification for this disclosure. In particular, CDS teaches, "A method [See pg. 3, ln. 11 – pg. 4, ln. 2; pg. 5, ln. 27 – pg. 10, ln. 16; and Fig. 5] for generating a configuration database file [FCO - See pg. 3, ln. 11 – pg. 4, ln. 2 and pg. 5, ln. 27 – pg. 10, ln. 16] based on at least one data file of at least one ECAD tool [See pg. 7, lns. 13-19] included

in a predefined tool list [flow map - See pg. 3, ln. 11 – pg. 4, ln. 2 and pg. 5, ln. 27 – pg. 10, ln. 16], said method comprising the steps of:

selecting [See Step 106] an ECAD tool [tool node] from the predefined tool list [flow map];

reading [See Step 108 (also 200-204)] a data file of said selected ECAD tool [See pg. 7, ln. 13 – pg. 10, ln. 16 and pg. 11, ln. 23 – pg. 12, ln. 11]; and

generating [See Step 108 (also 200-204)] a configuration database file [FCO] based on said read data file [an RCO is generated for the tool node, and then linked into the FCO for the flow map (See pg. 11, ln. 23 – pg. 12, ln. 11)]” as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, CDS teaches the method of claim 1, as above, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether all ECAD tools from the tool list have been selected [See Step 110];

selecting a next ECAD tool when all ECAD tools have not been selected from the tool list [See loop of Steps 106-110]; and

storing said configuration database file [FCO] when all ECAD tools have been selected from the tool list [FCO is stored for entire flow map including individual RCOs for each tool in the flow map] as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, CDS teaches the method of claim 1, as above, wherein prior to said step of selecting an ECAD tool [See Above (Step 106)] further comprises the step of [See Step 100 – creation/input of flow map] defining a tool list [flow map] having predefined ECAD tools [tool nodes] as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, CDS teaches the method of claim 1, as above, wherein said step of selecting an ECAD tool further comprises the steps of: defining a file list including at least one predefined data file of said selected ECAD tool [See contents of RCO (pg. 9, Ins. 6-15)]; and selecting a data file from said file list [in order to generate RCO (See pg. 11, ln. 23 – pg. 12, ln. 11)] as claimed.

Referring to claims 5 and 6, CDS teaches the method of claim 4, as above, wherein said at least one predefined data file includes an output file generated by said selected ECAD tool [See pg. 9, ln. 8] and a configuration file associated with said selected ECAD tool [See pg. 9, Ins. 9-10] as claimed.

Referring to claim 7, CDS teaches the method of claim 4, as above, wherein said step of selecting a data file further comprises the steps of: determining whether all data files from the file list have been selected and selecting a next data file from the file list until all said at least one predefined data files have been selected [note that all parts (files) of the tool must be processed to generate the RCO] as claimed.

Claim 8 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claim 7, in light of the basis for claim 1.

Claim 10 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claim 1. See the discussion regarding claim 1, above, as well as the portions of CDS cited therein, for this disclosure. In particular, CDS teaches "A computer system [See Fig. 1] for generating a configuration database file based on at least one data file of at least one ECAD tool included in a predefined tool list [See Claim 1 above], comprising:

a storage medium [See 22 & 24];

a processor [See 18] for executing a program stored on the storage medium...the program comprising a set of instructions for...[See Claim 1 above]" as claimed.

Claim 11 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claims 1 and 10 above. See the discussion regarding claims 1 and 10, above, as well as the portions of CDS cited therein, for this disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CDS in view of the web site www.cplusplus.com by The C++ Resources Network (TM) copyrighted 2000 (hereafter C++ '00).

Regarding Claim 9, CDS discloses all the limitations of Claim 1 (supra). However, does not explicitly disclose wherein said step of generating a configuration database file further comprises the steps of:

- determining whether a configuration database file exists in memory;
- creating a new configuration database file based on the read data file when a configuration database file does not exist in memory;
- determining whether a configuration database file is older than the read data file when a configuration database file does exist in memory; and
- appending data from the read data file to the existing configuration database file.

C++ '00 discloses: step of generating a configuration database file further comprises the steps of:

- determining whether a configuration database file exists in memory (C++ '00: see mode parameter table, entry for "A");
- creating a new configuration database file based on the read data file when a configuration database file does not exist in memory (C++ '00: see mode parameter table, entry for "A").
- determining whether a configuration database file is older than the read data file when a configuration database file does exist in memory (C++ '00: see mode parameter table, entry for "A"); and
- appending data from the read data file to the existing configuration database file (C++ '00: see mode parameter table, entry for "A").

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the file/append technique of C++ '00 with the functionality of CDS. The motivation to combine is well known in the art to C programmers, specifically that the append flag for the fopen() function is well known in the art to C programmers, and exists to prevent the older data in existing files from being overwritten. Furthermore, the append flag also allows streamed data to be persisted by appending to the end of an existing file, and thus prevents the streamed data from being lost. In general, the technique discussed above is a common feature of logging operations, which are used by CDS.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 571-272-4020. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bdg
4 January 2006


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